



Bright Horizons

Reverend Bruce Hitchcock, Executive Director

Angie Brown, Newsletter Editor

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Religion & Politics

Recent articles in Bright Horizon have elicited some responses from faithful readers. They have ranged between "encouraging" and "don't write about politics." Some of you have openly asked about my "politics." Others don't care about politics. They see the gospel. There is no way to write about gospel issues and leave politics out. Jesus spoke directly to politicians. More importantly, one cannot separate the conditions of people and those who have the ability to shape the conditions. Poverty, hunger and injustice are gospel issues and they are political issues. (These issues are not being addressed in an adequate manner by politicians on the national level and in some cases by the church.)

My motivation for writing has nothing to do with the current race for the White House. I seriously doubt that the President of the USA can correct the waste and lack of common sense in the federal government. I have encouraged the readers of this Newsletter to ask their respective parties to include the impoverished and the hungry in campaign planning and in government.

I am motivated to do this by prayer, the witness of Jesus in the Scriptures and out of love for people. Prayer, Scripture, and Love lead me to express myself in writing, preaching and leading at the Urban Mission. Most of the political campaigns running today do little or nothing for those who are impoverished and those we now call the working poor. They are good enough to work, but not good enough to be fairly compensated. I confess a certain amount of anger and confusion. These people are the Children of God. They are the reason Jesus Christ lived, died, and lives again. I see them everyday. They cannot afford medication, rent and food. They are frustrated by a system in which they cannot succeed in life. There are some children of God who are numerous generations into poverty. More and more, there are people brand new to poverty who

cannot improve themselves. These are the gifts given to us by God. We must love them as Jesus Christ loves them.

Perhaps I am simplistic and naïve concerning life in America. I believe that Prayer, Scripture, and loving people can make a difference. To experience Jesus Christ in prayer and scripture moves one to love. It seems to be a natural movement that has little to do with politics. I know that I will not stop writing about loving people even if it sounds political. Prayer and Bible reading will take you places you never thought you would go. You will begin to experience God's love for you. You will begin to love God through these experiences. A deep transformation occurs when you commune with the Living God. Some people say something like, "It must be very difficult to serve all those poor people downtown." The temptation is to say, "Well yes, it is hard to put up with these people." It feels good if someone thinks you are a martyr or something. The fact is, I am not here to put up with anyone. I am here to love people with divine love being the source and strength for this privilege.

The basic role of any Christian Congregation, and denomination, is to love God through worship and by loving the poor. We usually insert the word service when it comes to those facing injustice. Things usually boil down to the choice of loving people or not. We can talk about the complexity of government and denominations and maybe even the complexity of Urban Mission, but the complexity does not relieve us of loving people. The Living Lord Jesus commands us to love God, one another and our neighbor. How about it? Are you up to loving someone today? Even more, are you up to expecting that your political party put poverty and injustice on the agenda? These questions are the same questions in my mind.

-Love, Pastor Bruce

Back To School Giveaway A Success!



Special thanks to all of you who donated supplies and funds for our Back to School Giveaway. Thank you to the Girl Scouts of Troop #4678 who sorted and packed bags and all the volunteers who worked at the distribution. We were able to give supplies to 355 students of Steubenville City Schools and 118 from other area schools. Thank you for helping ensure that our children had a bright start to the school year!

Help for the Holiday's

Today is August 18, 2004. Our Annual Carnival was held this past Saturday. And what a wonderful day it was. This weekend is the Jefferson County Fair. And the kids will all be going back to school next week. Where has the Summer gone?! Of course, the weather wasn't too cooperative this year.

The point I am trying to make is just where has time taken us too. As a young person, everyone told me that the older I would get, the faster time would slide by me. Always listen to what your elders tell you! After all, they have been through it already!!

We have already started the process of getting ready for Thanksgiving. And many of you are helping us in that process by the donation of the foods requested for the Thanksgiving Challenge. We will have everything fine-tuned next month.

Thanksgiving and Christmas are our absolute busiest times of the year. And now is the time to think about volunteering during this time. Think about it now and respond now, as these days will pass by so quickly and you will have forgotten about it.

S0-0-0-0-0, mark your calendars now for the Holiday Season of 2004. Give me a call and I will put your name on my list. We need lots of volunteers during that time and your help will be greatly appreciated.

You can reach me at 282-2911. I look forward to hearing from everyone real soon.

P.S. Don't forget this month's Thanksgiving Challenge item, Vanilla Frosting (1200 cans).

-Linda L. Poe, Program Director

Holiday Activities Schedule

I cannot believe it is time for me to be making this information available. Seems like I just did this a couple of months ago! Listed below are the holiday activities for 2004. Please check over the list and mark your calendar as to the times you would like to help during this busy time. PLEASE let us know as soon as possible if you can volunteer during these times so that we can ensure that everything runs smoothly.

REGISTRATION FOR THANKSGIVING CHRISTMAS KIDS & COAT DISTRIBUTION

October 25,26,27,28,29
9:00 – 12:00 & 1:00 – 3:00

PACKING BAGS FOR THANKSGIVING

West Virginia – November 9
Beginning at 9:00 AM
Ohio – November 16
Beginning at 9:00 AM
(Lunch will be provided for volunteers)

WEST VIRGINIA THANKSGIVING DISTRIBUTION

November 11
9:00 – 12:00

OHIO THANKSGIVING DISTRIBUTION

November 17
9:00 – 12:00 & 1:00 – 3:00
November 18
9:00 – 12:00

CHRISTMAS TOY DISTRIBUTION

West Virginia – December 9
9:00 – 12:00
Ohio – December 16 & 17
9:00 – 12:00 & 1:00 – 3:00

SANTA'S RECYCLE SHOP

December 21 & 22
9:00 – 12 & 1:00 – 3:00

Summer 2004 Highlights

Another busy summer at Urban Mission has just wrapped up. Several programs were in process during the summer months. Our **Children's Summer Program** ran from June through August. An average of 80 children attended the program daily. The children enjoyed games, tutoring, music, Bible lessons and various other activities. The end of the program was marked by our **Annual Street Carnival**, held on Saturday, August 14 in the parking lot of Urban Mission. Over 1300 people attended the Carnival. This was a day of free fun, games, crafts and food for the children and adults of the Steubenville area.

On August 20, our **Back to School Supplies** Distribution was held. We were able to distribute 473 bags of supplies to area students in need. 355 bags were given to students of Steubenville City Schools and 118 bags to students of other area schools.

Our **Joshua Work Mission** program was held from May through August. Groups from Pennsylvania, Iowa, New York, Illinois, Missouri, New Jersey, Wisconsin and Ohio completed an amazing 98 work projects! Twenty-three groups (459 people) gave an astounding 11,974 hours of volunteer work during the Joshua program.

This summer has truly been an amazing one. All of these activities took many hours of planning and preparation. We were blessed with many, many volunteers for all of our summer ministries.

We send special thanks to the Summer Program Coordinators, Yolanda Murray and Renee Thompson. Thank you to our Carnival Coordinator, Angela Suggs and our Joshua Director, Jim Sloane and our Joshua Site Supervisors, Shannan Farmer, Jared Schmidt and Rebecca Parrill. Thank you to every person who donated time, funds, finances and prayers to the Mission. We appreciate all that you did to make this an outstanding summer.

Lupus Support Group Meetings

September 14, 2004
Janis Russell, Coordinator

September 29, 2004
Walter & Pat Howard, Coordinators

Both meetings will be held at Trinity Medical Center East from 6-8 PM. Come and learn about Lupus and Lupus Symptoms. Does someone you know have Lupus? Let them know about the support group. This program is funded by the Ohio Commission on Minority Health.

NCDC Celebration

Thursday, September 16, 2004
Lenora's Restaurant
Hollywood Plaza
6:00 p.m.

The NCDC Advisory Board will celebrate the past accomplishments and outline the future for 2005. Patti West and Fannie Jennings are Co-Chairs of the Board. A gala evening has been planned.



Annual Coat Giveaway



Our annual Coat Giveaway is coming up soon. This year's giveaway will be on **October 25, 26 & 27, 2004** at the Warehouse. We are in need of coats of all sizes for men, women and children. Please bring your coats (in good condition) to the Warehouse at 311 North 6th Street **by October 15, 2004**. Please help us to make this winter a warmer one for our neighbors and friends in need.

Parish Nurse News: Salmonella Infection

The latest food borne illness in the news is salmonella infection. These infections have been linked to tomatoes placed on sandwiches in some fast food restaurants. Let's take a look at this infection.

Infection with the bacteria called Salmonella is called salmonellosis. Salmonella can pass from the feces of people or animals to other people or animals. Salmonella has been known to cause illness for over 100 years. Salmonella are usually transmitted to people by eating foods contaminated with animal feces. These contaminated foods usually look and smell normal. Contaminated foods are usually of animal origin, such as meat or eggs, but other foods such as vegetables can become contaminated. Thorough cooking of animal products contaminated with salmonella will kill the organism. Food can also become infected with Salmonella by the unwashed hands of infected food handlers, who did not wash their hands after using the restroom. Salmonella can also be found in the feces of some pets, especially reptiles. People can become infected if they do not wash their hands after contact with the reptile feces.

The symptoms of salmonellosis are diarrhea, fever, and abdominal cramps starting 12 to 72 hours after infection. The illness lasts 4 to 7 days and most persons recover without treatment. If the diarrhea becomes severe, the person may need to be hospitalized. Severe infections can spread from the intestines to the bloodstream or other organs. These patients will require antibiotic therapy. Older persons, infants, and people with impaired immune systems are more likely to develop a severe illness.

Governmental agencies take many measures to prevent salmonellosis and individuals also need to take measures to prevent this infection. These measures include:

- Cook poultry, ground beef, and eggs thoroughly.
- Do not eat or drink foods containing raw eggs or raw unpasteurized milk.
- If you are served undercooked meat, poultry, or eggs in a restaurant, do not eat the food and send it back for further cooking.
- Wash hands, kitchen work surfaces, and utensils with soap and water immediately after these surfaces have been in contact with raw meat or poultry.
- Be especially careful with foods prepared for infants, the elderly, and persons with impaired immune systems, since they are more prone to a severe infection.
- Wash your hands with soap and water after handling reptiles or birds, or after contact with pet feces.
- Do not let infants or persons with impaired immune systems touch reptiles, such as turtles, iguanas, lizards, or snakes.
- Do not work with raw poultry or meat, and an infant at the same time, such as changing a diaper, or feeding an infant while cooking.
- Breast-feeding prevents salmonellosis and many other health problems, so encourage mothers to breast-feed.

In summary, Salmonellosis is a common food borne infection. Most salmonella infections do not require treatment and last approximately one week. Infants, elderly persons, and persons with impaired immune systems can develop severe infections, which require hospitalization. There are many measures that one can do to prevent salmonellosis. For additional information about this infection, check the CDC website at www.cdc.gov.

-Michalene King, RN, MSED, MSN

September 2004

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Upcoming Events in September 2004

1	Hunger Committee Meeting Program/Evaluation Committee Meeting	10:00 AM 2:00 PM
4	No Mission Rejoice (Labor Day Holiday)	Closed
6	Closed for Labor Day Holiday	Closed
9	Ministries Council Meeting	5:00 PM
11	Mission Rejoice	6:00 PM
13	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
14	Packing for Food Distribution Bags	9:00 AM
16	Ohio Food Distribution	9-12;1-3
18	Mission Rejoice	6:00 PM
20	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
23	WV Food Distribution Board of Directors Meeting	9-12 4:30 PM
25	Mission Rejoice	6:00 PM
27	Parish Nurse	11:00 AM
28	CSFP Senior Food Distribution	1:00 PM
29	Lupus Meeting	6:00 PM

Hope Box
Our Needs for Hutton House
are:



- Alarm Clocks
- Smoke Detectors
- Vacuum Cleaners
- Working refrigerators, gas/elec. stoves, washers and dryers.
- Dish drainers, mops, brooms, dust pans, buckets, kitchen garbage cans
- Towels, wash cloths, dish towels, dish cloths and throw rugs
- Coffee pots, can openers, toasters
- Curtains, curtain hooks and rods
- Cooking utensils, silverware, pots/pans and sets of dishes
- Complete twin and rollaway beds
- Small kitchen tables with chairs